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Commissioner for Patents

Serial No. 09/738,292

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections -35 USC § 112

Claims 19, 20, 24, 31, and 32 have been amended to correct the typographical errors identified by the Examiner. A typographical error was also corrected in claim 25. Antecedent basis for terms in claims 6, and 9-17 have been corrected to conform with the amendment to claim 1.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-16 and 18-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States patent application 2002/0085701 to Parsons et al. Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to clearly distinguish over Parsons et al. As amended, the independent claims claim that the team member profile of each team member is used to provide communications information selected by each team member to other members of the team, in order to provide the other members with a consistent team view that is representative of the status of the team member.

It is established law that in order for a document to anticipate a claimed invention, the document must teach each and every feature of the claim. Parsons et al. teach a method of personalized management of delivery of incoming calls and messages based on a user's presence information. The Office Action asserts that at paragraph 0009, Parsons et al. teaches a team member profile maintained by a persistent collaboration services suite for facilitating collaboration between members of a team. Paragraph 0009, however, teaches a presence system that keeps track of registered users' current presence context, and adds that an IVR system may be provided to make communication and messaging options available to

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the caller, which options depend on the user's current presence context. Parsons et al. teach a presence server 202 that maintains a presence context of registered users, and uses the information to determine how to dispose of a call. The Office Action does not demonstrate that use of the system for facilitating collaboration between members of a team is known, and accordingly every aspect of the claimed invention is not explicit or implied by Parsons et al.

At any rate, claims 1 and 18 have been amended to further indicate that the profile of one team member is used to present communications information regarding the one team member to all the other members of the team. The Examiner will appreciate the value for a team member profile for presenting communications information regarding the one team member to all the other members of the team in facilitating collaboration between members of the team. Parsons et al. does not teach a profile used to present communications information regarding the one team member to all the other members of the team, and accordingly every aspect of the claimed invention is not explicit or implied by Parsons et al.

The rejection of claims 2-16 and 19-34 as dependent on amended claims 1, and 18 are likewise traversed. Nonetheless Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claims 10, and 11 based on paragraphs 0037-0039, and 0045-0047 of Parsons et al., respectively. While paragraphs 0037-0039 state, for example, that different calls may be handled differently depending on the calling party, and the presence context of the called party, a profile being associated with a role of a team member, as recited in claim 10 is not implicit therein. Furthermore paragraphs 0045-0047 do not teach or imply that a profile associated with a role is defined by the team member.

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Claim Rejections -35 USC § 103

The Office Action rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious having regard to Parsons et al. Claim 17, as dependent from claim 1 *inter alia*, includes all of the features of amended claim 1, including the use of the team member profile to provide the communications information.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that by using the team member profile to provide the communications information, the other team members can readily determine the availability of each other team member. This facilitates team activities, the coordination of informal, ad hoc meetings, etc. associated with collocation. The numerous advantages of providing this communications information to other team members is apparent. There is nothing in the applied prior art that specifically suggests or implies the application of the system to team environments. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to select a profile that is provided to all other team members to accomplish a goal that is not taught, suggested or contemplated by the references made of record.

It is further noted that none of the cited references made of record teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Van Doorselaer et al. teach the use of reachability information by a predefined algorithm (Col. 9, 1-3), and does not teach the display of the reachability information or a team collaboration system.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended, and its dependencies (including claim 17), are therefore not obvious having regard to Parsons et al.

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Conclusion

Applicant has further corrected errors of a clerical nature in the specification as filed, on pages 9, 15, 34 and 88. No new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments.

In view of the amendments made to claims 1 and 18, and the corrections to claims 6, 9-17, 19-20, 24-25 and 31-32, and for reasons set forth above, all claims in this application are now considered to be in a condition for immediate allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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